

FINAL
EDITION

The

Evening

World.

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ALLIES HOLD UP REPLY TO GERMANY; GERARD DISCUSSES PEACE IN BERLIN

DARCY HERE TO EARN MONEY FOR NEEDY FAMILY BEFORE FACING BULLETS IN WAR

**Australian Comes Looking Every Inch
a Fighter, and, as Robert Edgren
Sizes Him Up, With Wrists and
Forearms More Powerful Than
Those of Jim Jeffries.**

BY ROBERT EDGREN.

"I didn't leave Australia to get out of fighting," said Les Darcy as we talked over his plans when he came ashore to-day.

"I intend to go to the war before very long. As soon as I have had three or four fights here O'Sullivan, my manager, and I will go to the nearest place we can enlist—in Canada, I suppose—and offer our services."

Here Les stopped talking for a moment, and for the first time in an hour the smile left his face and his mouth became a grim straight line.

"I can be killed then," he said.

"Killed?" I exclaimed. "Why killed?"

"Oh, there's small chance of going through without being killed. A lot of my friends—here Les waved his hand as if dismissing that part of the subject. Then he went on:

"I would have gone before, but when I go I must leave my family beyond want. I have five brothers and four sisters. One brother is older than I am; he's crippled. The next boy is seventeen. He works day and night as a baker. The others are little fellows. I never got very much money for fighting in Australia. I intend to get it now. In America, and then I'll give it to my family and go to the war. What happens after that won't make much difference."

"Then the Australian writers who said you left because you were afraid to fight didn't know what they were talking about."

"They will know better," said Darcy, softly.

BETTER BUILT THAN TOM SHARKEY FOR FIGHTING.

Darcy doesn't look like a man who would fear anything. In Australia he is famous for fighting with a perpetual smile—a smile that never leaves his face even when, stung to fury by a heavy blow, he knocks his opponent out. He is as powerfully built as Tom Sharkey, and even better built for fighting.

I never saw Darcy's forearms, wrists and hands on any other fighting man. They are tremendous—a blacksmith's hands, with the forearms of a ship calker. His hands, wrists and forearms are heavier and more powerful than those of Jim Jeffries when Jeffries was in his prime. His shoulders are wide and sloping, his back a rounded mass of hitting muscles, his upper arms so chunky that they stand out in rounded lumps under his coat sleeves. Stripped—as he stripped for the camera—he showed a clear skin, no fat, and a splendid torso.

"I never had a hard fight," said

(Continued on Sporting Page.)

The Evening World
will not be published
Monday, Dec. 25th
(Christmas Day).

5,000 SWITCHMEN WIN 8-HOUR DAY AND PAY INCREASE

Arbitration Board's Award, As
Forecast in Evening World,
Filed To-Day.

MODIFICATION OF LAW.
Cannot Apply to More Than
10 Per Cent. During the
First Year.

The Board of Arbitration, headed by Judge Charles B. Howry, which heard the grievances between the Switchmen's Union and thirteen big railroads of the country, has awarded to the switchmen a flat eight-hour day and five cents an hour increase over the present rates of wages. Time and a half payment for overtime is denied and payment of all overtime will be at the present pro rata rates.

The award was filed to-day in the Federal Courts and will go into effect Jan. 1. It affects 5,000 members of the union only and not the entire body of switchmen of the country, from 20,000 to 35,000 in all. But the union expects a great rush for membership and new members will share in the benefit.

In the comment that follows the award, the arbitrators seem to put a modification on the Eight Hour Law.

In practice the Eight Hour award means payment at the rate of nine hours pay for eight hours' actual work. This, coupled to the wage increase, is equivalent to a total of 12 1/2 per cent. increase, the railroads say. The railroads are quite satisfied, though they do not publicly admit this. When it is fully applied the award will tack \$250,000 a year to the payrolls of the roads.

The eight-hour award was forecast in The Evening World ten days ago. James B. Connors and W. A. Titus, labor representatives on the Board, dissented on the overtime and also on the increase.

Here is the Arbitration Board's comment on the eight hour award: "Although it has seemed wise to award an eight-hour day as the standard minimum day, the overwhelming weight of testimony shows that the conditions of the various kinds of railway work are so different that only trial can determine just how far eight-hour shifts can be worked without prohibitory cost to the roads and undue disturbance of the work of their patrons."

"It seems to be clearly established that, under existing conditions, and probably even under conditions of traffic less strenuous than the present, it will not be possible to make the actual working eight-hour day effective in the case of more than a small percentage of the switching crews, not more than 10 per cent. during the first year.

"While, therefore, it is urged that the eight-hour day be established, its introduction must be gradual. The percentage, therefore, of the switching crews that will be directly affected during the period of this award must of necessity be small. Most crews will work ten hours or more."

Army Tests New Means of Field Communication.
SAN ANTONIO, Texas, Dec. 23.—With several members of a signal corps, each carrying a mile of telephone wire on his back of such fine texture that the rolls do not weigh more than a few pounds, a new method of field communication has been tested at Leon Springs, near here. By attaching the units carried by the soldiers a communicating system several miles long over rough country can be established.

LES DARCY, AUSTRALIAN FIGHTER, AS HE LOOKED ON HIS ARRIVAL TO-DAY



GRANDMA BERSINGER MAY SPEND XMAS IN TOMBS

Court Orders Her Transfer Pending
Decision of Writ of Habeas
Corpus.

Mrs. Clara Bersinger, the Queens County grandmother in the Workhouse for refusing to support her son's three children, probably will remain in prison over the Christmas holidays. Justice Greenbaum to-day declined to grant, offhand, her release on a writ of habeas corpus. He ordered her transferred to the Tombs pending his final decision. She sobbed when the Court announced the change.

"Oh, that terrible place; it's hardly any better than the Workhouse!" she cried. "Please don't send me there, Judge."

"I should like very much to let you have your liberty," said Justice Greenbaum. "But I am in doubt the law gives me that right. Possibly to-morrow my decision will be made known."

SQUADRON A, HOME AGAIN, CHEERED ALONG FIFTH AVE.

Officers and Men in Fine Physical
Condition After Stay on
Border.

Squadron A, New York's famous cavalry command, back from five months' service on the border, galloped up Fifth Avenue this afternoon to strains of martial music and the applause of thousands who lined the sidewalks.

Major William B. Wright, the commander, led the way, followed by 399 men and fifteen officers. The members of the four troops, A, B, C, D, as well as the men of the machine gun company, appeared to be in fine physical condition.

At the University Club the squadron was reviewed by Gov. Whitman, Mayor Mitchell, Major Gen. Leonard Wood, Major Gen. John F. O'Ryan, Col. Cornelius Vanderbilt, George W. Wickersham and many other men of civil and military prominence.

TWO BURN TO DEATH IN BREWSTER HOME; TWO OTHERS DYING

Harold Powell of Seventh N. Y.
Regiment and Little Miss
Brewster Lose Lives.

BLAZE ON PALISADES.
Servant and Her Own Baby
Mortally Injured by Leap-
ing From Window.

Harold Powell of the Seventh Regiment of New York, and his niece, Margaret Brewster, ten years old, were burned to death this morning when the home of the child's mother, Dr. Margaret Brewster, on top of the Palisades, opposite Grant's Tomb, was destroyed by fire.

The child's nurse, Mrs. Mary Smith, jumped from a window of the burning house with her own child, Ethel, two years old, in her arms, and both were fatally injured.

Mrs. Brewster left the house early last evening to visit friends in Manhattan preparatory to a Christmas shopping trip to-day. She is well known throughout New Jersey for her public and professional activities.

When the firemen arrived the flames had encircled the entire lower floor of the house and escape for those above was cut off.

The firemen were trying to force a way to them when Mrs. Brewster's child appeared in a window on the third floor. She was screaming for help, but before anything could be done she apparently fainted and fell back in the flames.

A few moments later the nurse, Mrs. Smith, came to a window on the same floor with her baby. She was screaming hysterically as the fire blazed back of her and, after remaining at the window for but a moment, she jumped to the lawn below holding tightly to her infant. She was carried to the home of a neighbor. Later she was taken to the Englewood Hospital, where it was said her spine was fractured and she would die. No hope was held out for the child.

With but one line of hose on the building and bucket brigades of over a hundred men at work, the firemen were able to do little. In less than twenty minutes from the arrival of the firemen the house, which was for the most part fireproof, collapsed.

Young Powell, a brother of Mrs. Brewster, returned from the Mexican border two weeks ago. He had been living in the home of Mrs. Brewster since the death of her husband. He occupied a room on the top floor. Firemen searching the ruins came upon the body of little Miss Brewster in the basement of the house, where it had dropped when the place collapsed. The body of Mr. Powell was found in the ruins of the third floor. It was still on his bed, the mattress of which had been burned away. He apparently had been suffocated while asleep.

WAR MEDALS FOR AMERICANS

President of Ambulance Committee and Others Decorated by France.
PARIS, Dec. 23.—Gold medals have been awarded to Laurence V. Benet, President of the American Ambulance Committee; Capt. Arthur Weisway Kipping of the Automobile Ambulance Corps and Lieut. Henry Skerrett Rogers and John Hochstet of the Ambulance Corps.

XMAS TREE READY, MOTHER AND FOUR BABES DIE BY GAS

Husband and Father, Only
Survivor Because He Was at
Work, Finds Them Dead.

BELIEVED AN ACCIDENT.
Drawn Shades Greeted New-
ark Man on Return Instead
of Faces at Windows.

The appointment of Santa Claus to call at the home of Frederick Becker of No. 253 Verona Avenue, Newark, N. J., has been cancelled.

There were six in the Becker family yesterday—father, mother and four little girls. To-day there remains only Becker. He is a night watchman in a big Newark factory. As he neared his home this morning he looked up to a window where he had been accustomed to see four dimpled faces, framed in curly hair, awaiting the sight of him. The window shade was drawn.

For an instant Becker stopped in his tracks. Then he ran. He will never know how he got up the stairs to his apartment on the second floor and threw himself against a door that was locked. He remembers hurling himself against that door again and bursting it from its hinges to be greeted by a flood of illuminating gas.

Through a room in which there was a partially trimmed Christmas tree he staggered to another room. He remembers now, and will remember all his life, how still it was as he made his way into that second room. He will always associate that short, silent trip with hundreds of previous homecomings which had been the signal for laughter and kisses and shrill cries of welcome.

There isn't much more to be said. Mrs. Becker, Martha, aged four, and Edna, aged three, were dead in a big bed in the room. Ethel, aged seven, and Helen, aged six, were dead on their cot at the foot of the big bed. The single gas jet in the room was partially open.

The indications are that Mrs. Becker, a healthy, happy woman, thirty-four years old, retiring late and tired after working on the Christmas tree, turned off the gas and accidentally turned it on again. That is why Santa Claus won't have as much work to do in Newark as he was figuring on yesterday.

Home Burns Down While They Buy Christmas Gifts.
HACKENSACK, N. J., Dec. 23.—While Mrs. George Van Vleet and her two children of Teaneck were in Hackensack this morning doing Xmas shopping their home was destroyed by fire. They returned to find themselves homeless. Nothing was saved.

NEW YORKER KILLED FLYING IN ENGLAND

H. R. Deighton Simpson, Victim of
Accident, Found by a Harvard
Student.

LONDON, Dec. 23.—H. R. Deighton Simpson, son of Henry W. Simpson of New York, was accidentally killed while flying in England Dec. 19. He was a lieutenant in the Royal British Flying Corps.

Lieut. Simpson, until the outbreak of the war, was a student at Harvard and lived with his parents at Port Chester, N. Y. He was prepared for Harvard at Eton, where the Prince of Wales was a pupil. He was twenty-two years old and had seen two years' service at the front, returning to England as an aviation instructor two months ago.

GERMANS MAY ASK WILSON TO ACT AS A MEDIATOR IN SETTLING PEACE TERMS

London Foreign Office Announces
That Reply to Central Powers Will
Not Be Delivered Before Christ-
mas; Possibly Not for Ten Days.

BERLIN MAY STATE TERMS IN SECRET TO WILSON

LONDON, Dec. 23.—The Foreign Office states there is hardly any possibility that the reply to the German peace note will be dispatched before Christmas. Owing to difficulty in communication, it is even possible that the answer will not be forwarded within ten days.

The note received from President Wilson, since the German proposals were first announced, is partially responsible for the delay.

The reply to President Wilson already has been considered by the British Cabinet. The impression is given that the note will not reflect the government in any way from its plans for prosecuting the war.

BERLIN, Dec. 23.—American Ambassador Gerard, who has just returned from America, is being besieged to-day for any word he can say of America's note asking that warring Powers define their purposes in the war.

He held a long conference yesterday with Foreign Secretary Zimmermann, discussing the note. Because he had just come from the President, Mr. Gerard was able to give Herr Zimmermann a clearer view of the President's attitude.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—From the same source, close to the highest German officials in this country, that has forecast accurately every move Germany intended making in her peace proposals, it was learned to-day that Berlin will answer President Wilson's note by giving him a confidential statement of the terms upon which the central allies are willing to negotiate peace.

In Teutonic circles here, the President's note is regarded as a victory for German diplomacy to such an extent it is understood Berlin's reply will virtually accept Mr. Wilson as mediator in the peace movement, an office it was believed until the latest developments Germany would never be willing to delegate to him.

THANKS TO WILSON BY DUTCH CITIZENS

Anti-War Council Says Neutrals
Support His Noble Efforts
for Humanity.

THE HAGUE, Dec. 23 (via London).—The Dutch anti-war council has sent the following cablegram to President Wilson:

"Holland thanks you for your effort in favor of lasting peace. All believe the belligerents will be able to hold out long under present conditions. The cost already reaches \$100,000,000,000.

England's war bills reach \$20,000,000,000 and her 1917 bills will add another \$10,000,000,000. France has spent \$14,000,000,000, and Russia, which had entirely to munition and supply her army, even more. Italy's expenditures run into billions.

The war has cost Germany \$12,000,000,000, Austria, \$10,000,000,000; Turkey, \$5,000,000,000; and Bulgaria, \$1,000,000,000.

These figures include only actual cost of war, and do not touch property or business losses.

Frank Jones, Senate Doorkeeper Forty-three Years, Dies.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—Frank Jones, for forty-three years doorkeeper of the United States Senate, died here to-day. Jones had seen twenty-one Congresses pass. He was born in Rockport, Ind.

SUNDAY WORLD WANTS

WORK MONDAY WONDERS.